

Serial No. 10/680,986
60,130-1891
03MRA0488

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 1-9 and 11-22 are pending.

Claims 1-9 and 11-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/54157. The Examiner admits that WO 99/54157 fails to disclose "various design details claimed." The Examiner suggests that these details have insignificant impact on the functioning of the device and that it is merely a design choice. This simply cannot be supported.

WO 99/54157 operates in a completely different way than Applicant's claimed invention. WO 99/54157 fails to disclose a pinched area of any sort. Even the Figure 7 embodiment to which the Examiner specifically refers does not disclose a pinched area of any sort. The area 30a of WO 99/54157, which the Examiner is interpreting as the pinched area, is a U-shaped slack portion 30a. The WO 99/54157 area 30a does not retain the anti-shift collar to said stabilizer bar. WO 99/54157 recites that even the Figure 7 embodiment provides retention by mutually cooperation engagement portion such as the engagement portions 13a, 13b which engage in a tongue and slot manner. WO 99/54157 specifically recites "The opposing ends are provided with mutually cooperation engagement portion which are similar to the previous embodiments." [See page 10, lines 5-6] WO 99/54157 specifically recites that the retaining assembly is "*pressed (crimped) from the outside. This causes the U-shaped slack portion 30a to EXTEND, and the cooperating engagement portions to engage each other so that the retaining assembly is firmly attached to the stabilizer 1.*" [See page 10, lines 16-19; emphases added] That is, the mutually cooperation engagement portion which are similar to the previous embodiments in WO 99/54157 retain the assembly 30.

WO 99/54157 is installed and operates in a manner completely different than Applicant's anti-shift collar. Absolutely no pinched areas are formed in WO 99/54157. In fact, contrary to the Examiner's proposition that having the collar crimped in four locations as such is merely a

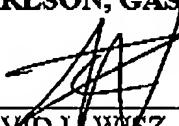
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design choice, *WO 99/54157* actually teaches away from forming pinched areas as, the U-shaped slack portion 30a is *expanded* when the collar is installed and the entire collar is simply pressed (crimped) together such that the mutually cooperation engagement portion which are similar to the previous embodiments in *WO 99/54157* retain the assembly 30. The claims are properly allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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